

Bigfork Steering Committee
Minutes April 12, 2007
bigforksteering.org
Approved as amended

In Attendance: Sue Hanson, Paul Rana, Edd Blackler, Paul Guerrant, Kim Crowley, Darrel Coverdell, Mike Richeson, Clarice Ryan, Paul Mutascio, George Darrow, Leslie Budewitz, Doug Averill, John Bourquin, Frank Landis, Kathy Robertson, Elna Darrow, Don Loranger, Joyce Mitchell, Julie Spencer, Joe Brenneman.

Chairwoman Elna Darrow called the Meeting to order at 12:05

Agenda: The agenda was adopted as amended: to move Committee Reports Forward, Followed by Public Forum. (m/sc G. Darrow/Paul Rana)

Minutes: The minutes for April 5, 2007 were approved as emailed. (m/sc Averill/Mutascio)

Treasurer's Report: No Report

Committee Reports:

Resort Tax: None

Lake County Zoning: None

Vision Committee: Edd Blackler reported the committee is making progress on the binder to display photos of appropriate and inappropriate examples of good growth in Bigfork. If you have photos, please get them to Edd as soon as possible. The committee will meet once a month on the first Monday of the month, noon at the Flathead Bank meeting room at Osborne Landing. The next meeting is May 7, 2007.

Announcements:

Bigfork Neighborhood Plan: Kathy Robertson announced that the Bigfork Neighborhood Plan was discussed at the last Planning & Zoning Board. The PZ Board suggested that Bigfork's plan be placed first in line for consideration because it is such a fantastic document. The Plan could be used as a prototype for other neighborhood plans. She was enthusiastic about the idea of the Planning Board holding public meetings on the plan in Bigfork and suggested we request that.

Storm Water Conference – April 13, 2007, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Hampton Inn in Kalispell.

Flathead County "50 Goals": The Flathead County Planning & Zoning staff will make a presentation to the community on Tuesday, April 17, 2007, 6:00 PM at the Bethany Lutheran Church.

Water Quality: Flathead On The Move is sponsoring a conference on water quality, problems and solutions, on April 20, 1007, 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Contact Ned Cooney at ncooney@montanasky.us or (406) 212-7242.

Affordable Housing Conference: "The Price of Paradise: Affordable Housing in Montana" is the subject of a conference by the Burton K. Wheeler Foundation on May 17 & 18, 2007, at the Holiday Inn Parkside, Missoula, MT. To register online: www.montana.edu/wheeler/registration.htm or contact Edd Blackler (blackler@acrossmontana.net) for the program and overview.

Lake County Zoning Committee meets every Friday, 10:00 AM at the Chamber of Commerce

Board of Adjustment Vacancy: Janet Loranger will resign as a member of the Flathead County Board of Adjustment effective May 4, 2007.

Public Forum:

CFBB: Paul Mutascio reported the Community For A Better Bigfork (CFBB) has installed electricity for the tennis courts. They are in the process of getting stoplights and a crosswalk on Grande Avenue for the school. They are also providing 5 - \$250 grants to students in order to involve Bigfork students in community affairs and service.

CFBB also is working with Pacific Corp to obtain improvements on the Swan River Nature Trail to include durable dog stations, more garbage cans, park benches and picnic tables. Included will be improved signage and entry sign to honor the Whitney Family. Zac Anderson is donating rock for the project. A plaque to honor Les Averill will be placed at the Bigfork Art & Cultural Center.

A 5-year contract has been signed with Pacific Power to continue the use of Sliter Park. The contract included the request from Flathead County Parks Board that CFBB provide half the maintenance costs. The CFBB has submitted \$1,000 for that purpose.

Edd Blackler: Asked for the opportunity to "brainstorm" the appropriate way to address inappropriate signs in the Bigfork area. He noted several reader boards have been permanently installed and believes they violate county regulations, as well as depart from the character of Bigfork.

Doug Averill commented that the situation may seem small now but is getting worse day by day.

John Bourquin noted that BLUAC is in a position to address zoning violations. He will bring the matter to the attention of BLUAC at the next meeting to address a procedure for addressing violations at the local level (a letter and/or personal visit) before forwarding violations to Flathead County Planning & Zoning for processing.

Joe Brenneman suggested that peer pressure is effective and would support efforts to resolve such issues at the local level.

Doug Averill suggested the appointment of a Compliance Officer. He believes we have the people locally who would do a diplomatic and effective job.

Overlay Zoning: John Bourquin noted a discussion with Planning Department Assistant Director, B J Grieve, regarding overlay zoning. Since the growth plan is not a regulatory document, overlay zoning would establish regulations for specific zoning groups. An example: In B3 zoning, standards could be set for architectural regulations or sign regulations, which become enforceable. The regulations could not be more restrictive than county regulations. The downside is overlay zoning would involve more time and manpower on Flathead County planning staff. The questions are would the county supply the necessary funding to make it effective?

Library: Paul Mutacio reported what he felt was a violation of legal process and open meeting laws regarding the decision by the Flathead County Park Board in relation to Potoczny Park and building a Library there. He contended the meeting to deny the library request was held without full public notice and was not a fair process. He asked to whom the Park Board was accountable? He also stated that in the process of securing a lease from Pacific Corp the Park Board held CFBB hostage by waiting until the very last minute and would not sign the lease unless Bigfork paid half the maintenance costs. Joe Brenneman responded with two points: 1) If there is evidence of an open meeting violation, the information should be made given to Flathead County Attorneys Jonathan Smith or Peter Steele for a legal determination. He asserted the present Flathead County Commissioners are committed to complying with open meeting laws. 2) As to accountability, each county board functions under differing rules. He suggested the principals request a hearing with the commissioners.

Grande Avenue Guardrails: Doug Averill pointed out that the guardrails along the sidewalks on the bay side of Grande Avenue are unsightly and a hodgepodge of old materials. He asked if it were possible to get permission to replace the guardrails with attractive rock and rail. Averill is willing to donate materials and would assure the railing would meet safety standards, Brenneman said he was going to meet county road people on Grande Avenue to look at storm drainage issues after the meeting and will have a look at that area.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM

Sue Hanson

Acting Secretary